

ELC. AVAILABLE

REMARKS

The Examiner has withdrawn the allowability of claims 9 and 21 in view of a newly discovered reference to Ketcham. The Examiner cites Ketcham as anticipating claims 9 and 21, stating that Ketcham shows a hollow elbow body member having a flange (unnumbered) extending partially into the bore from a first corner of the bend to a second corner of the bend in the same manner as Applicants' flange shown in Figure 7. The Applicants respectfully disagree. Figure 3 of Ketcham does not show a flange extending from one corner of the bend to another corner in the same manner as depicted in Applicants' Figure 7. In fact, no such flange is depicted in Figure 3 of Ketcham. The Applicants have provided Exhibit A showing Figure 3 of Ketcham and Figure 7 of the Applicants' invention side-by-side. As shown, Applicant's flange 195 extends from one corner 196 to the other corner 197. Ketcham does not show such a flange, and, therefore does not anticipate claim 9. Claim 21 which contains the same limitations, similarly is not anticipated.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 6 as obvious over Ferguson in view of Ketcham. Claims 1-3 and 6 contain the same limitation as claims 9 and 21, particularly, a flange extending into the bore between a first corner of the bend to a second corner of the bend. None of the references show this structure nor is it obvious therefrom. Consequently, the Applicants believe that claims 1-3 and 6 are not obvious and respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected as obvious over Ferguson in view of Ketcham and further in view of Klinger. These claims similarly contain the flange limitation discussed above. Like the previously discussed references, Klinger does not show a flange extending from a first corner of the bend to a second corner of the bend nor is one obvious therefrom. Consequently, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of all of the

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Application No.: 09/975/917
Reply to Office Action of November 7, 2003
Docket No.: FLN.P.0002

rejections. The Applicants believe that claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request notice of the same.

If any issues remain, however, the Applicants request a telephone call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Phillip L. Kenner, Reg. No. 22,353
Shannon V. McCue, Reg. No. 42,859
Renner, Kenner, Greive, Bobak, Taylor & Weber
First National Tower - Fourth Floor
Akron, Ohio 44308-1456
Telephone: (330) 376-1242
Facsimile: (330) 376-9646
E-mail: svmccue@rennerkenner.com

Attorney for Applicant(s)